

For years, we have endured "chosen" music on the airwaves. Because I prefer music considered "unpopular" by media corporations, I was happy to discover Public Broadcasting, which was still sensitive to the tastes of its listeners and aware that it was there to serve us. Only recently has my attention been dragged back to commercial media -- due to a worsening of "decision making" to inflict upon media consumers a chosen program.

When did America relinquish control of its collective consciousness, and where was our FCC to prevent the conglomerate control of our media? Please wake up and regulate the media.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.